

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

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PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-07 RSC-01 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 MC-02 EB-11 OTPE-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, JA, US

SUBJ: SPACE COOPERATION - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) STATE 34843, B) TOKYO A-106, C) TOKYO A-49,

D) STATE 227252, NOV 19, 1973, E) STATE 32733

SUMMARY: JAPANESE SPACE OFFICIALS DENY PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS THAT JAPAN AND FRANCE ARE ON POINT OF CONCLUDING COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR BOOSTER ROCKET DEVELOPMENT. CONCRETE RESULTS OF FRENCH VISIT NEXT WEEK LIKELY TO BE LIMITED TO AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC LEVEL AT SAME LEVEL AS JAPAN-ESRO MEMORANDUM OF 1972.

GROUP OF JAPANESE SPACE OFFICIALS HEADED BY SPACE ACTIVITIES COMMISSIONER AMISHIMA PLANNING WASHINGTON VISIT APR 4-5 FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS FUTURE US COOPERATION. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE ON SUITABILITY OF PROPOSED VISIT DATES, AND ON STATUS OF EXPORT LICENSING APPROVAL FOR BASIC DESIGN OF JAPANESE BROADCAST AND COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH SCICOUNS, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF BOTH NASDA AND STA CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT PUBLISHED REPORTS ON IMPENDING JAPAN-FRENCH SPACE COOPERATION ARE HIGHLY INNACCURATE.

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SPECIFICALLY CHARACTERIZING RECENT NEWSWEEK AND JAPAN AVIATION

WEEKLY AS "LIES." YAMANO, COUNCILLOR FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES OF STA, SAID THAT NO CONCRETE OFFER OF COOPERATION EVER RECEIVED FROM CNES, NOR HAS ONE BEEN SOLICITED BY JAPAN. FORTHCOMING LEVY VISIT IS IN RETURN FOR VISIT MADE LAST NOVEMBER BY CHIBA AND OTHERS TO FRANCE. YAMANO BELIEVES THAT VISIT WILL PROBABLY CONCLUDE WITH SIGNATURE OF MEMORANDUM ON COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF SPACE EXPLORATION, VERY SIMILAR TO JAPAN-ESRO MEMORANDUM OF 1972, AND NOT COVERING COOPERATION IN BOOSTER ROCKET DEVELOPMENT. YAMANO PROMISED BRIEFING ON RESULTS OF FRENCH VISIT ON CONCLUSION.

2. OBSERVING THAT LONG-STANDING US-JAPANESE SPACE COOPERATION WOULD SEEM TO CALL FOR CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN PARTIES ON FUTURE PROGRAMS. SCICOUNS NOTED THAT SUBJECT OF RECENT PRESS SPECULATION; I.E., JAPANESE-FRENCH COOPERATION IN LIQUID HYDROGEN DEVELOPMENT HAD NEVER BEEN RAISED IN OFFICIAL US-JAPANESE CONTACTS. YAMANO EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH DESIRABILITY OF CLOSE CONSULTATION, AND VOLUNTEERED THAT 1969 US-JAPAN SPACE AGREEMENT REQUIRED CONSULTATION IN EVENT OF FRENCH-US BOOSTER ROCKET COOPERATION, SINCE JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON US. IMPLICATION OF YAMANO REMARK WAS THAT, SINCE JAPAN HAD NOT INITIATED SUCH CONSULTATION, REPORTED FRENCH-JAPANESE PLANS FOR COOPERATION OBVIOUSLY INCORRECT.

3. WHILE THUS DISCLAIMING ACCURACY OF FRENCH COOPERATION REPORTS, BOTH NASDA AND STA ACKNOWLEDGE STRONG LONG-RANGE INTEREST OF JAPAN IN LIQUID HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY. NASDA CONTINUES TO ATTRIBUTE THIS INTEREST PREDOMINANTLY TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS OF PRESENT SECOND-STAGE FUEL AND PROPELLANT, ALTHOUGH THEY ALSO ADMIT INTEREST IN GREATER EFFICIENCY OF LIQUID HYDROGEN.

4. YAMANO INFORMED SCICOUNS THAT PLANS NOW BEING MADE FOR HIGH-LEVEL VISIT OF STA AND NASDA OFFICIALS IN EARLY APRIL. GROUP WOULD PROBABLY BE HEADED BY TSUYOSHI AMISHIMA, MOST ACTIVE MEMBER OF SPACE ACTIVITIES COMMISSION, AND MIGHT INCLUDE YAMANO PLUS TWO OR THREE NASDA OFFICIALS. PREFERRED TIME FOR WASHINGTON VISIT OF GROUP IS APRIL 4-5, WITH VISITS TO GE VALLEY FORGE, MCDONNELL DOUGLAS, AND AEROJET TAKING PLACE AFTERWARD. YAMANO REQUESTED EARLY ADVICE ON WHETHER THIS SCHEDULE ACCEPTABLE TO REVIEW OFFICIALS OF DEPT AND NASA. IF NOT, PROPOSAL OF ALTERNATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DATES WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

5. PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF DISCUSSION PROPOSED BY STA ARE FUTURE US-JAPANESE COOPERATION ON BOOSTER ROCKET DEVELOPMENT AND US LAUNCH ASSISTANCE FOR JAPANESE SATELLITES. IN EFFECT, GROUP WOULD BE PROVIDING JAPANESE RESPONSE TO US POSITION ON COOPERATION IN "N" ROCKET IMPROVEMENT (REF D). WHILE YAMANO DID NOT DISCLOSE JAPANESE POSITION, WHICH STILL UNDER REVIEW, IT OBVIOUSLY WILL

QUESTION US EMPHASIS ON HARDWARE SALES IN PREFERENCE TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. JAPAN SPACE ACTIVITIES COMMISSION WILL GIVE FINAL APPROVAL TO 1974 SPACE PROGRAM IN ABOUT 10 DAYS, FOLLOWING WHICH YAMANO WILL BRIEF SCICOUNS ON OUTCOME.

6. GROUP WILL ALSO INFORM NASA "FORMALLY" OF JAPANESE REQUEST FOR LAUNCHING SERVICES FOR 1977 LAUNCHINGS OF METEOROLOGICAL, COMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCAST SATELLITE. DESPITE ADVANCED STATUS THESE PROJECTS AND INEVITABLE NEED FOR US LAUNCH ASSISTANCE, BOTH NASDA AND STA SEEM COMPELLED TO NOTE THAT ALL REPS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THIS MATTER TO DATE HAVE BEEN "INFORMAL". VISIT OF NASDA TECHNICAL GROUP NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF DRAFT LAUNCH SERVICES MOU IS OFFICIALLY UNKNOWN TO STA, ALTHOUGH STA IN FACT IS WELL AWARE OF VISIT.

7. BOTH NASDA AND STA HAVE STRESSED ONCE AGAIN IMPORTANCE OF US LICENSING APPROVAL FOR BASIC DESIGN SERVICES FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCAST SATELLITES (REF C). STA HAS BEEN INFORMED BY CONTRACTOR REP THAT DEPT HAS INDICATED THAT EXPORT LICENSING APPROVAL FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF BROADCAST SATELLITE WAS BROAD ENOUGH TO COVER BASIC DESIGN, AND NO FURTHER APPLICATION NOR APPROVAL NEEDED. HOWEVER, YAMANO RELUCTANT TO RELY ON INDIRECT ADVICE VIA CONTRACTOR REPRESENTATIVE. THIS CONCLUSION PRESUMABLY INAPPLICABLE TO COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, IN VIEW SUBSTITUTION OF NEW US CONTRACTOR (PHILCO-FORD) WHO DID NOT HAVE PRELIMINARY DESIGN EXPORT APPROVAL. AS REQUESTED IN REF C OF JAN 21, 1974, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON THESE LICENSING ACTIONS.

8. EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE ITS CUMBERSOME, AND AT TIMES CURIOUS, ADMINISTRATIVE FEATURES, JAPANESE SPACE PROGRAM IS STILL A FAVORED ENDEAVOR AS REFLECTED IN 50 PERCENT BUDGET INCREASE WHICH IS UNEQUALLED IN GOVT SCIENCE PROGRAM, AND STEADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. MOST US CONTRACTOR OBSERVERS BELIEVE SCHEDULE FOR INITIAL "N" ROCKET LAUNCHING (SUMMER 1975) WILL BE MET, AND PRINCIPAL SATELLITES (GMS, ECS, AND EBS) ALSO HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF BEING ON SCHEDULE. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY AND COMPETITION BETWEEN STA AND NASDA, WHICH LEADS TO SUCH COMPLICATIONS AS INABILITY TO SPECIFY WHO WILL SIGN MOU ON LAUNCHING SERVICES, LARGELY AFFECT FORMAL ASPECTS OF PROGRAM, AND PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON DAY-TO-DAY PROGRAM, WHICH CLEARLY IS RESPONSIBILITY OF NASDA.

9. JAPAN'S SPACE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO PLACE HIGH PRIORITY ON INDEPENDENT JAPANESE LAUNCH CAPABILITY FOR COMMERCIALLY USEFUL SATELLITES, AND IT CAN BE ANTICIPATED THAT GOJ WILL PRESS STRONGLY FOR MORE LIBERAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN "N" ROCKET IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY US (REF D). DEVELOPMENTS

REFERRED TO IN REF E, IF THEY LEAD TO SIGNIFICANT DELAY IN  
JAPANESE PROGRAM, WILL GIVE FURTHER STRONG IMPETUS TO THIS PUSH.  
WHILE EMBASSY ACCEPTS JAPANESE DENIALS OF IMMINENT FRENCH-  
JAPAN COOPERATION IN BOOSTER DEVELOPMENT, CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD  
FAVOR SUCH COOPERATION ARE UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENT, AND SHOULD BE  
TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING FUTURE US POSITIONS.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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